## REMARKS

This response is being filed to address the rejections received in the November 16, 2005 Office Action. Currently claims 5, 6, 22-28, 30 and 32 are pending. Claims 1-4, 6-21, 29, 31, 33 and 34 have been canceled. Claims 5, 22, 23, 25, 28, 30 and 32 are independent. In the Office Action, claims 5, 6, 22-28, 30 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dinwiddie, U.S. Patent No. 6,481,013 in view of McArthur, U.S. Patent No. 5,805,806. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present application is directed to an intelligent device system and method for distribution of digital signals onto, and off of, a wideband signal distribution system.

Referring to Applicants' exemplary embodiment shown in Figure 2, a local RF receiver and baseband out intelligent device system for transmitting digital information onto an RF carrier through a wideband distribution network is shown. The foregoing features are broadly encompassed by Applicants' independent claim 5. For instance, claim 5 recites at least one addressable device 202 having at least one input and at least one output as illustrated in Figure 2. In addition, an intelligent device 204 comprising a demodulator 220 that receives the modulated RF signal portion from a BUD 38, and a first digital combiner 212, which combines at least two demodulated digital signal portions from said demodulator in one high speed digital transmission, among other features, are illustrated.

The intelligent device system 200 receives digital and analog information on an RF carrier, which may be, for example, between 5MHz to an excess of 1GHz, from a wideband signal distribution system, and for use in sending baseband digital

information to a wideband signal distribution system. The addressable device 202 may be, for example, an Ethernet card, or a NIC card, in a computer, or maybe a display device that displays digital information. The addressable device 202 can have an address, such as an IP address assigned thereto, to allow communications directed to that particular address to be delivered thereto.

The intelligent device 204 receives the modulated RF signal, which may include IP and non-IP signal portions thereon, via the RF system input. The intelligent device 204 also receives at least one incoming digital signal, such as a digital IP signal, from the addressable device 202. The RF system input may be, for example, connected to the at least one BUD 38, after the BUD 38 has received incoming digital signal from the addressable device 202. The modulated RF signal, upon receipt at the intelligent device 204 from the BUD 38, is split into an IP portion and non-IP portion of the incoming signal. The incoming signal is then differentiated according to the information frequency on the incoming carrier. For example, the non-IP portion, digital or analog, of the signal may be passed through the first band pass filter 216 that passes the band of the RF carrier that includes the non-IP portion. The non-IP portion is fed to a standard RF television/computer outlet 232. Pre-selected RF signals and pre-selected RF channels are allowed to pass to this standard outlet 232.

The IP portion of the modulated RF signal can be fed through a second band pass filter 218 that passes a band outside the band pass of the first band pass filter 216. The IP portions, modulated RF signal is then demodulated by demodulator 220. The demodulator 220 strips the RF carrier signal from the digital baseband signal as is known in the art. Following demodulation, the IP digital signals are combined by a

digital combiner 212 in order to effectuate a parallel-to-serial conversion. The output of the digital combiner 212 is a high speed serial digital output. The output of the digital combiner 212 is routed to at least one addressable device 202 via an output pair, such as pins 7 and 8. The digital information is thereby provided to the addressable device 202.

In the rejection of claim 5, the Office Action asserts that the "at least one addressable device" is met by the distribution unit 22 of Dinwiddie as shown in Figure 1B and discussed at column 4, lines 38-55. Neither Figure 1B nor column 4, lines 38-55 disclose that the distribution unit 22 of Dinwiddie is addressable.

Figure 2 of Dinwiddie illustrates the internal structure of the distribution unit 22. The Figure does not specifically show addressable components and column 4, lines 38-55 merely disclose that the distribution unit 22 will also receive a broadcast signal via the broadcast signal input 42. Therefore, Dinwiddie does not disclose or suggest that distribution unit 22 is an addressable device as recited in the claims and as asserted in the Office Action.

Claim 5 also recites an intelligent device that receives, from the BUD, a modulated RF signal, among other functions, and wherein the said intelligent device comprises a first digital combiner that combines at least two demodulated digital signal portions from said demodulator into one high speed digital transmission.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the claimed combiner for creating the high speed digital transmission is met by the Dinwiddie patent at column 5, lines 18-35. The citation discloses that the broadcast services band as designated by the FCC extends from 5 MHz to 997.25 MHz and describes a portion of that band that is dedicated to the Data Over Cable Service Interface

Specification (DOCSIS). The cited section does not disclose any structure that combines the at least two demodulated digital signal portions within an intelligent device as recited in claim 5.

Also on page 3, the Examiner asserts that the claimed RF splitter is met by the notch filter 70 of Figure 2. However, notch filter 70 of Figure 2 is in the distribution unit 22 of Dinwiddie, which previously the Examiner has stated corresponds to the claimed addressable device. Therefore, the claimed RF splitter, which is comprised within the intelligent device, should not also be in the addressable device as asserted by the Examiner.

Finally, the claimed intelligent device also serves to split an IP portion from a non-IP signal portion of the digital signal portion of the modulated RF signal received from the BUD over the network. The text at column 4, lines 38-67 discusses the distribution unit 22 of Dinwiddie, which the Office Action alleges corresponds to the claimed addressable device, and not the claimed intelligent device.

Therefore, the Dinwiddie patent does not disclose an addressable device or an intelligent device as recited in the independent claim 5. The Office Action asserts that the McArthur patent cures the deficiencies of the Dinwiddie patent. However, the McArthur patent does not disclose an addressable device or an intelligent device as recited in the claims. The Dinwiddie and McArthur patents individually, or in combination, fail to disclose all of the features recited in independent claim 5.

As for independent claims 22, 23, 25, 28, 30 and 32, these claims were not specifically addressed, but were rejected under the same grounds of rejection as claim 5. Independent claims 22, 23, 25, 30 and 32 each recite, among other features, an addressable device, which is not disclosed or suggested by the

Dinwiddie and McArthur patents individually, or in combination. Claim 28 recites, among other features, an intelligent device, which also is not disclosed or suggested by the Dinwiddie and McArthur patents individually, or in combination.

The Dinwiddie and McArthur patents fail to disclose all of the features recited in independent claims 5, 22, 23, 25, 28, 30 and 32 individually, or in combination. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been made with respect to the independent claims over the applied prior art. The rejection of claims 5, 6, 22-28, 30 and 32 should be withdrawn.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner believe a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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